



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region 1

**5 Post Office Square
Boston, MA 02109-3912**

January 25, 2017

Douglas McVay, Chief
Offices of Air Resources
Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street, Room 230
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

Dear Mr. McVay:

Thank you for your January 9, 2017 initial notification letter of a potential exceptional event for ozone on May 25-28, 2016. Since you have decided to move forward with this exceptional event request, and informational flags in the EPA's Air Quality System (AQS) for the monitors and days affected have been set, my staff will reach out to your staff to further discuss this request.

We plan to discuss the technical support items that could be included in the demonstration, and will work with you as it is prepared. Your demonstration must show a clear causal relationship between the wildfire event and the high ozone concentrations for hourly data at each monitor in Rhode Island where you are requesting exclusion of data. Due to the distance between the fire and Rhode Island, a robust analysis may be necessary. Connecticut and Massachusetts are currently in the process of investigating this exceptional event as well, with Connecticut already well into working on their technical demonstration. We suggest coordinating with Connecticut before you begin preparing your demonstration to avoid the unnecessary work of duplicating analyses relevant to both of your states. We intend to facilitate that discussion, and the sharing of relevant information.

A final demonstration must be prepared and submitted for concurrence no later than May 31, 2017. This demonstration must go through a 30-day public comment period and public comments must be addressed prior to the formal submission of the exceptional event request.

We are here to help, so do not hesitate to contact Catie Taylor at 617-918-8607 or Eric Wortman at 617-918-1624 with any questions or concerns. We look forward to working with you as you prepare this demonstration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David B. Conroy", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

David B. Conroy, Chief
Air Programs Branch

cc: Laurie Grandchamp, RI DEM
Gina Friedman, RI DEM
Darren Austin, RI DEM
Melinda Viera, RI DOH